

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:NBGUENTHER

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R 151622Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

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FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO BRUSSELS CAIRO TRIPOLI  
FROM KHARTOUM 11 MAY 74:

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KHARTOUM 1017

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SU

SUBJ: NIMEIRI GIVE INTERVIEW TO AP

1. FRANK HAWKINS, ASSOCIATED PRESS NEAR EAST BUREAU, GAVE RUN  
DOWN TO PAO MAY 11 OF EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WHICH HE HAD SAME DAY  
WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI. STORY TO BE RELEASED MAY 12. AS DESCRIBED  
BY HAWKINS, INTERVIEW, WHICH ARRANGED WITH ASSISTANCE SAUDI  
ENTREPRENEUR ADNAN KASHOGGI, CONTAINS NO PARTICULAR SURPRISES.  
NIMEIRI DOES CARRY FUDE WITH LIBYA AND QADHAFI ONE STEP  
FURTHER BY CLAIMING TO HAVE EVIDENCE THAT LIBYA PLANNING OPERATION  
IN SUDAN SIMILAR TO RECENT MILITARY ACADEMY ACTION IN CAIRO.  
RE BSO TERRORISTS, NIMEIRI REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENTS TO  
EFFECT JUDICIAL PROCESS CONTINUING AND ESSENTIALLY DUCKED  
QUESTION AS TO WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN AFTER COURT PROCEEDINGS  
CONCLUDED. HE DID ACKNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, THAT HE EXPECTED SUDAN  
TO FACE PRESSURES SIMILAR TO THOSE WHICH HAD PROMPTED GREEKS  
RELEASE TWO TERRORISTS, BUT GAVE NOT INDICATION HOW GOS MIGHT  
REACT IN FACE SUCH PRESSURE. RE RELATIONS WITH US, NIMEIRI  
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SAID THEY WERE EXCELLENT AND PRAISED USG ASSISTANCE WHICH HE

CLAIMED SECOND TO NONE IN PAST THREE YEARS. (FYI: WHILE THIS STATEMENT OBVIOUSLY INACCURATE IT DOES REEMPHASIZE POSITIVE IMPACT WHICH AMBASSADOR'S DISCUSSION FY 74 ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (KHARTOUM 908 AND 915) HAD ON PRESIDENT. END FYI). FINALLY NIMEIRI INDICATED THAT HE HOPE TO VISIT US PROBABLY NEXT YEAR (FIRST WE HEARD OF THIS). OTHERWISE INTERVIEW WAS LARGELY ROUTINE DISCUSSION OF SUDANESE DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND RELATIONS WITH ARAB AND OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTIRES.

2. RESPONDING TO QUERY, NIMEIRI WAS PARTICULARLY EFFUSIVE RE ASSISTANCE FROM CHINESE, CITING ROADS, BRIDGES AND PEOPLES' HALL WHICH QTE WILL BE THE LARGEST IN ALL AFRICA ENDQTE. NIMEIRI WAS MORE SUBDUED DISCUSSING RUSSINA AID, DISMISSING IT WITH BUT PASSING MENTION, HAWKINS TOLD PAO HE GOT IMPRESSION NIMEIRI WAS QTE LESS THAN ENCHANTED WITH RUSSIANS. ENDQTE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE INTERVIEW CONTAINS LITTLE NEW, IT WILL PRESUMABLY GET SOME PLAY IN US AS FIRST CONVERSATION WHICH NIMEIRI HAS HAD WITH US NEWSMAN IN SOME MONTHS. FACT THAT INTERVIEW OBTAINED THROUGH KASHOGGI SERVES TO HIGHLIGHT HIS CONTINUING ROLE ON SUDANESE SCENE. SANDERSON UNQUOTE RUSH

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